

REMARKS

Claims 10-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-9 have been canceled. The amendment to claim 10 places the claim in independent form. New claims 11-14, which depend from claim 10, are supported by claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 respectively, as well as paragraphs [0008], [0009], [0013], [0020], [0028], [0029] and [0041]. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Double Patenting

Claims 6 and 9 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 11 of US 7,316,864. Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 12 of US 6,656,633.

Claims 1, 6 and 9 have now been cancelled. Claim 10, which was not included in this rejection, is now the independent claim from which all remaining dependent claims depend. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC § 10(a) as being obvious over Yamakawa et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0034686).

Claims 1-9 have now been cancelled. Claim 10 is now the independent claim from which all remaining dependent claims depend. Since claim 10 was not included in this rejection, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 was objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was otherwise allowable. Claim 10, as amended, is now presented in independent form. Accordingly, the objection has been obviated and claim 10 should now be allowable over the prior art as indicated by the Office Action.

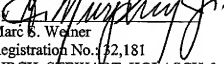
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Reg. No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Marc S. Werner
Registration No.: 32,181
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant